**Was there a particular way of knowing that was most important in the destination about whether data was the property of star fleet?**

There are several ways of knowing that have been used in the awesome episode of star trek. The episode is themed around the idea of the android data that is forced to undertake an experiment to see if more of his kind (androids) can be created. The problem was that data did not think that the scientist was fully ready to proceed with the experiment and that during the experiment data could lose the element that makes him unique. We find out that data as know choice in the matter because he is the property o star fleet. The ship’s captain, Piccard tries to get data out of the situation by going to the local [Starfleet Judge Advocate General](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Starfleet_Judge_Advocate_General) for help. This leads to a trial with Piccard defending data and Piccard’s second Riker supporting Dr. Maddox’s clam to experiment on data.

During the trial commander Riker uses sense perception to show that data is nothing more that a very complex machine. The commander shows data robotic quality by making him state all his statistics e.g. what his processing speed was and how much information he could store. Then Riker asks Data to take of his hand, this gives a visual of the fact that data can essentially dismember himself with no pain. Riker then goes on and shuts data down, this is a very powerful action because it shows that all data is really just a bunch of weirs and bits of metal. This shows us that data is no different from our computer with can also tell us its statistics like processing speed but we can also shut down our computer when we are done with it, This fact is very important.

Another WOK that is used is emotion, this is used by Piccard when he shows us all of data’s personal belongings. This shows us a more human side to data, the most important part was when we find out that data was intermit with a woman showing that he has some form of emotion. When Piccard shows us that data has human elements because he keeps personal belongs like all of his medals and a present from Piccard.

Throughout the trial language is used on both sides, Maddox refers to data as it constantly and Riker uses very technical robotic sounding words when he questions data. Piccard uses language as well, like when data is being Scand and we here all his accomplishments. Through this Piccard show the judge that data should not be forced to join Maddox because he has done so much for star fleet, and it looks good for data’s character when proceeding with the case.

Now all the above points are important and If the essay was not supposed to be two page I would never have motioned them because I think the most important WOK in the episode was reason. There is a scene after the sense perception bit when Riker shuts down data that Piccard and Guinan have a chat, here Piccard starts to think about the idea of slavery. This is what I think helped Picard with the case, he argued that if this experiment with data was successful then thousands of data’s could be produced and there is the danger of making them slaves. They would not need money or food and or you could program them to work unconditionally, this would resemble slavery which Piccard points out to the judge. Piccard also uses reason when he brings Maddox to the stand were he asks him what it means to be a sentient being. Maddox tells him that there are 3 different things that make a thing a sentient being, the three laws are the thing must be intelligent, self-aware and consciousness. Piccard asks data a question that proves that he is in fact intelligent, he then asks data if he knows what is going on, data tells him that he is on trial and could ended up as property of star fleet if Piccard dose not win. Piccard then basically asks Maddox to show him how to measure any ones consciousness. Maddox is left stumped on the stand because data as show through reason that he meets tow out of the three laws and the third is too difficult to measure. Piccard also says that what would it look like if humans a member of star fleet that is sworn to find new races and give them the freedom that they deserve, what would it look like if they used the androids as a almost slave race instead of treating them as equals that cannot be simply owned.

Reason is what wins the case and that is why I think it is the most important, it is also the most important factor to consider if this was a real life case.